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IDENTICAL LETTERS DATED 23 MARCH 1998 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL AND THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to inform you that violations of Iraq's airspace by United States aircraft continued over the period from 6 to 15 March 1998 and that the aircraft in question carried out reconnaissance and engaged in acts of provocation, as set forth in the annex hereto.

You are requested to intervene with the countries in question with a view to bringing a halt to actions that, as flagrant violations of the Charter of the United Nations and the provisions of international law, pose a threat to the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Iraq.

These actions continue to alarm the civilian population and to cause serious damage to private and public property. The Republic of Iraq affirms its right to seek legal compensation for the damage being inflicted on the Iraqi people and the Iraqi State by these actions.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Nizar HAMDOON
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex

Details of violations of Iraq's airspace and damage caused, 6-15 March 1998

1. In the northern region 50 sorties were flown at speeds of 600 to 900 kilometres per hour and at altitudes of 6,000 to 9,000 metres, over the following Iraqi cities and towns: Dohuk, Mosul, Amadiyah, Aqrah, Zakho, Irbil and Tall Afar.

2. In the southern region 935 sorties were flown at speeds of 600 to 900 kilometres per hour and at altitudes of 6,000 to 9,000 metres, over the following Iraqi cities and towns: Nasiriyah, Samawah, Artawi, Ushbayjah, Jalibah, Salman, Busayyah, Qurnah, Chabaish, Shinafiyah, Rumaythah, Habariyah, Basra, Hayy, Shatrah, Amarah, Diwaniyah, Rifa'i, Nukhayb, Qal'at Salih, Hamzah, Ali al-Sharqi, Abu Sukhayr, Qala't Sukkar, Safwan and Umm Qasr.

3. Two sorties were flown by United States TR-1 reconnaissance aircraft at altitudes of 20,000 metres and at speeds of 600 kilometres per hour.

4. At 1016, 1030 and 1105 hours on 2 March 1998 United States aircraft violated Iraqi airspace over the areas of Umm Qasr and Faw.

5. At 1435, 1445 and 1030 hours on 3 and 4 March 1998 United States aircraft violated Iraqi airspace over the areas of Umm Qasr and Faw.

6. At 1128 hours on 6 March 1998 a formation of two United States aircraft broke the sound barrier over the city of Shu'aybah.

7. At 1515, 1532, 1533, 1550 and 1250 hours on 9 and 10 March 1998 United States aircraft violated Iraqi airspace over the areas of Umm Qasr and Faw.

8. At 1315 and 1430 hours on 11 March 1998 United States aircraft violated Iraqi airspace over the areas of Umm Qasr and Faw.